

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Thursday, August 26, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Subject: Medicare Imposes Stronger Protections on Medical Equipment Suppliers

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today issued a final rule representing another step to increase protections for Medicare and beneficiaries from potentially fraudulent suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS).

The new regulation enhances Medicare enrollment standards for DMEPOS suppliers by adding several new standards and strengthening existing standards that suppliers must meet before being able to furnish equipment and supplies to Medicare beneficiaries. These new and stronger standards will help to reduce fraud in Medicare and provide beneficiaries with additional assurance that they are being served by legitimate suppliers who meet Medicare's standards.

The additions and revisions to the DMEPOS supplier enrollment standards help ensure that only qualified and legitimate DMEPOS suppliers participate in Medicare. All suppliers for these items, including those DMEPOS items prescribed by the beneficiary's physician, from simple canes and walkers to complex power wheelchairs, oxygen supplies and equipment, and hospital beds now must meet these new standards.

The final rule also clarifies and expands the existing enrollment requirements that DMEPOS suppliers must meet to establish and maintain billing privileges in the Medicare program.

To read the entire CMS press release issued today (8/26) click here:

https://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp

To read the final rule today click here: http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2010-21354_PL.pdf or here:

http://www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/09_ProviderEnrollmentRegulation.asp#ToPage.

Please contact the CMS Office of Legislation with any questions.